

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /089 W

----- 076520

R 271413Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4598

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 6192

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OAU ET FT

SUBJECT: OAU'S TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY: OAU AND ETHIOPIAN
STATEMENTS

1. TO COMMEMORATE TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE OAU CHARTER ON MAY 25, 1963, OAU ADMINISTRATIVE SEC GEN WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA AND BRIG. GEN. TEFERI BANTI, CHAIRMAN OF THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, ISSUED STATEMENTS FOR THE OAU AND ETHIOPIA, RESPECTIVELY.

2. ADMIN SEC GEN MBOUMOUA'S STATEMENT EXHORTED OAU MEMBERS TO PUSH FORWARD TOWARDS THE COMPLETE LIBERATION OF ALL AFRICAN TERRITORY AND TO AVOID BECOMING SELF-SATISFIED OR COMPLACENT WITH THE PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR. MBOUMOUA CALLED FOR "AN AGONIZING REAPPRAISAL" OF THE CONCEPT OF AID BETWEEN UNEQUALLY DEVELOPED NATIONS. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER THE TIME HAD NOT COME FOR AFRICAN NATIONS TO GIVE FOREIGN AID "ONLY A MARGINAL ROLE" AND
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INSTEAD TO DEPEND MORE FULLY "ON OURSELVES." IN LINE WITH THIS

CONCEPT, HE SAID, THE OAU HAS CHOSEN AS ITS THEME DURING THE TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION "AFRICA HELPS AFRICA".

3. IN HIS STATEMENT, BRIG. GEN. TEFERI RECALLED THE FOUNDING OF THE OAU IN ADDIS ABABA TWELVE YEARS AGO AND NOTED THE PROBLEMS CURRENTLY FACING AFRICA, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS REFERENCE TO "THE PROBLEM OF DJIBOUTI WHICH IS LOCATED IN OUR REGION." TEFERI STATED "THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI HAVE CLOSED HISTORIC, GEOGRAPHICAL, RELIGIOUS, DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA. FOR THESE REASONS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE GENERAL WELL-BEING AND SECURITY OF OUR TWO PEOPLES ARE INTERDEPENDENT." HE THEN ADDED THE EPMG WARMLY SUPPORTS THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE WITHOUT EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE.

4. COMMENT: TEFERI'S STATEMENT IS PART OF AN EPMG EFFORT TO BUTTRESS EPMG POLICIES VIS-A-VIS ERITREA AND TFAI WITH OAU SUPPORT BY REFERENCE TO OAU CHARTER PROVISION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES' TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND DECOLONIZATION. BY STRESSING ETHIOPIAN INTERDEPENDENCE WITH THE PEOPLES IN TERRITORY AND THE TFAI'S INTEGRITY, AND BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE SHOULD EVOLVE WITHOUT "EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE," THE EPMG HOPES TO SET THE STATE TO BLOCK THE EXPECTED SOMALI THRUST VIS-A-VIS DJIBOUTI AT THE UPCOMING OAU OM/SUMMIT IN KAMPALA. IT ALSO THUS HOPES TO SHORT CIRCUIT ANY ATTEMPT BY HOSTILE STATES TO RAISE THE ERITREAN ISSUE THERE, OR IN MOGADISCIO AT THE UPCOMING ARAB LEAGUE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE.

5. EMBASSY POUCHING STATEMENTS ADDRESSEE POSTS.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS06192
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750185-0187
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750515/aaaaanbl.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU'S TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY: OAU AND ETHIOPIAN STATEMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, FT, OAU, (TEFERI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006